Testing of Indigenous Engine for Light Combat Aircraft

1377. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the progress in the testing of indigenous engine for the Light Combat Aircraft;

(b) by when will Light Combat Aircraft mass production start; and

(c) what will be its approximate cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) Govject on full scale development of GTX-35VS engine for Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) has been approved. Design review is under progress.

(b) Series production of LCA is likely to commence in mid 90's.

(c) Unit cost of LCA will depend on production run, policy on amortization and development cost etc.

Recognition to Practitioners of Different Pathies

1378. SHRI B. L. PANWAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued directions to the State Governments to give recognition to the practitioners of different pathies; viz. Ayurveda; Homoeopathy. Unani, Sidha, etc. on the basis of experience; and

(b) if so whether the State Governments have responded positively in this regard, the state-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) According to Government of India's latest guidelines, the State Governments have to ensure that there is no fresh addition whatsoever of unqualified persons to the stream of practitioners.

(b) Does not arise.

Strengthening of Naval Defences

1379. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA JAYAWANTRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken to strengthen our Naval defences in view of the grave concern being felt over the growing presence of outside naval forces in the Indian Ocean;

(b) what was the reaction of the Australian Prime Minister in case this issue was discussed with him; and

(c) what measures are being taken to exercise our legitimate rights in our exclusive economic zone?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) Government of India keeps all developments having a bearing on the country's security under constant observation and initiates appropriate measures from time to time to maintain defence preparedness. The Indian Navy is equipped and modernised in keeping with emerging threat preceptions.

(b) During the recent visit of the Australian Prime Minister, the Indian Prime Minister indicated India's preceptions on the Indian Ocean scenario and our commitment to the protection of our substantial maritime interests. The Astralian Prime Minister expressed complete understanding of the factors behind India's recent Naval expansion programme.

(c) All necessary measures are being taken to exercise our legitimate rights in our exclusive economic zone.